

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 10515

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNGA, PARM, IN, PINR
SUBJECT: BIO DATA ON M.A. VELLODI, INDIAN CANDIDATE
FOR CHAIRMANSHIP OF UN DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

REF: USUN 2825

M.A. (MULLATH ARAVINDAKISHAN) VELLODI IS THE SECOND RANKING CAREER OFFICIAL IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND HAS EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN UNITED NATIONS, DISARMAMENT AND ATOMIC ENERGY AFFAIRS. BORN IN KERALA IN 1921, VELLODI SERVED EARLY IN HIS CAREER IN BERNE, KARACHI AND VIETNAM AND WAS INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER IN TANGANYIKA FROM 1961-62. MUCH OF HIS CAREER HE SPENT AT THE UN IN NEW YORK, FIRST AS A MEMBER OF THE INDIAN MISSION, THEN FROM 1962-69 AS DEPUTY TO UN UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AND SECURITY COUNCIL AFFAIRS. AS A SPECIALIST IN DISARMAMENT, VELLODI PARTICIPATED IN A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND STUDY GROUPS. FROM 1969 TO 1972, HE WAS JOINT SECRETARY FOR THE GOI'S DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY, HEADQUARTERED IN BOMBAY, AND SERVED IN EFFECT AS CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE TO THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN. FROM 1972-1976 HE WAS DEPUTED AS ADDITIONAL
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SECRETARY TO THE GOI'S DEPARTMENT OF SPACE IN BANGALORE. HE RETURNED TO THE MEA IN 1976 WHERE HE HAS BEEN SECRETARY (EAST) AND THE MINISTRY'S DISARMAMENT AND NUCLEAR EXPERT. COMMENT: AMERICAN OFFICIALS WHO HAVE DEALT WITH VELLODI DURING HIS CAREER HAVE FOUND HIM TO BE INTELLIGENT, POISED, ABLE AND SELF-CONFIDENT. DURING HIS STINT IN BOMBAY, HE WAS DESCRIBED AS BEING A MOST COOPERATIVE CONTACT OF THE CONGEN AND OF THE

FORMER USAEC REPRESENTATIVE THERE. CONSUL GENERAL COURTNEY, WHO HAS HAD A NUMBER OF CONTACTS WITH VELLODI, CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS A GOOD GRASP OF BOTH THE TECHNICAL AND POLITICAL QUESTIONS IN THE INDO-US NUCLEAR RELATIONSHIP AND, ALTHOUGH A STRICT ADHERENT OF THE INDIAN POSITION, NEVERTHELESS REASONABLE IN HIS APPROACH. IN VARIOUS FORMAL AND INFORMAL SITUATIONS OVER THE PAST YEAR, I MYSELF HAVE FOUND VELLODI TO BE CLEAR-HEADED AND WELL-BALANCED. HE IS A THOUGHTFUL, ARTICULATE PROFESSIONAL, NOT AN IDEOLOGUE.
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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